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Appl. No. 10/708,648  
Amdt. Dated 01/13/2006  
Reply to Office action of October 13, 2005

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Confirmation No. 2647

In re : Application of America, et al.  
For : OXIDIZED TANTALUM NITRIDE AS AN IMPROVED  
HARDMASK IN DUAL DAMASCENE PROCESSING  
Serial No. : 10/708,648  
Filed : March 17, 2004  
Group Art Unit : 2812  
Examiner : Mohsen Ahmadi  
Our Docket No. : FIS920040013US1  
Customer No. : 24036

January 13, 2006

By Fax 571-273-8300

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated October 13, 2005 having a shortened statutory period of response set to expire on January 13, 2006.

Please amend the referenced application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper.

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Fax (216) 752-0957

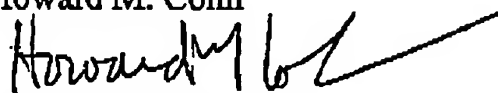
**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION BY FACSIMILE**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. 571-273-8300) on January 13, 2006.

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Date of Person signing

: January 13, 2006

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